



# Bringing milling research from the lab to the mill

**SRA and QUT joined together earlier this year to present a series of milling research seminars to the Australian industry.**

The five seminars were held in NSW, Bundaberg, Mackay, Townsville and Gordonvale and were an opportunity to provide an update on a range of projects that are striving for productivity, profitability, and sustainability outcomes for the milling sector.

A large volume of this work is part of SRA's investments in milling in with its 2017/18 to 2021/22 Strategic Plan and the Key Focus Areas of Milling Efficiency and Technology and Product Diversification and Value Addition.

In addition, research was presented on projects funded by external agencies and delivered through QUT

(for example, through the Australian Research Council).

SRA also took the opportunity to present information from the large Rural R&D for Profit project called Enhancing the Sugar Industry Value Chain, which contains several sub-projects that will have a direct impact on milling issues, particularly around issues such as extraneous matter and cane supply.

The Rural R&D for Profit project is funded by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and SRA.

Presenters heard the results from 2017 demonstration trials, which were conducted with 43 harvesting groups in green-cane areas. Later this year, there will be 60 additional demonstration trials in all areas of the industry.

On that topic, SRA Adoption Officers told the seminars that trials to date suggest an increase to green cane industry revenue of up to \$74 million (\$24 million for millers), as a result of a 5 percent increase in sugar production with no increase in area under cane.

In addition to these seminars, SRA also provides information to the milling sector via milling webinars, and our fortnightly e-newsletter. You can subscribe to these by visiting the SRA website [www.sugarresearch.com.au](http://www.sugarresearch.com.au). ■

*(Above) QUT's Dr Geoff Kent presenting at the Gordonvale milling research update in March this year.*

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